

TWO SPECIES OF CHAMAESYCE
(EUPHORBIACEAE) NEW TO THE UNITED STATES

Collections made in peninsular Florida for a taxonomic revision of the genus *Chamaesyce* in the Caribbean region have included two species not previously reported for the United States. The two, *Chamaesyce mendezii* (Boiss.) Millsp. and *C. thymifolia* (L.) Millsp., are known from Mexico and Cuba, with the range of the latter extending through the West Indies to South America.

Chamaesyce mendezii resembles the commoner *C. prostrata* (Ait.) Small, and *C. thymifolia* is very similar in appearance to *C. maculata* (L.) Small (*sensu* most authors, not Wheeler). All four are prostrate plants with serrate leaves, pubescent stems and capsules, and cyathia borne in the axils of leaves or on leafy side shoots, but they may readily be distinguished on characters of inflorescence and seed.

Capsule pubescent only along the angles.

Stem short-pubescent on lines; cyathial appendages minute or obsolete; seed with deep transverse furrows often extending through the angles *C. prostrata*

Stem long-hirsute, at least on lines; cyathial appendages prominent, pink or white; surface of seed rippled, the ridges not extending through the angles *C. mendezii*

Capsule pubescent all over, sometimes sparingly so.

Capsule completely exserted from cyathium when mature, widest just below the equator; styles .2-.4 mm. long, spreading; angles of seed rounded, faces with low irregular ridges; diameter of seed sub-equal except at extremities *C. maculata*

Capsule only partially exserted, splitting one side of cyathium when mature, widest close to base; styles .4-.6 mm. long, only rarely spreading; seed with sharp angles, ridges on faces transverse, well marked; seed tapering from base to apex *C. thymifolia*

Chamaesyce mendezii was first collected in Florida in 1957 (Brass 29046, St. Lucie County, as *C. adenoptera* (Bertol.) Small), and then in 1959 in the Redlands area of Dade County (Atwater M-113, as *Euphorbia adenoptera*). It is now widespread in disturbed areas in Dade, Monroe

and Collier counties, and has been collected in Highlands and Polk counties. It must be considered a well established element of the flora of the southern counties, and at least an occasional weed in the central part of the state.

C. mendezii: COLLIER COUNTY: Goodland, 26 Sept 1964, *D. Burch* 401 (GH, US); Naples, 27 Sept 1964, *DB* 412 (BM, F); Goodland, 22 Nov 1964, *R. K. Godfrey*, 65468a; Naples, 22 Nov 1964, *RKG* 65527; DADE: Redlands, 5 July 1959, *Atwater M-113*; S. Miami, 11 Aug 1963, *DB* 158; Coral Reef Dr., Miami, 11 Aug 1963, *DB* 160; Old Cutler Rd., Miami, 29 Nov 1963, *DB* 219 (NY, US); Everglades National Park, 17 Apr 1964, *D. Burch & D. B. Ward* 293; Homestead, 19 Apr 1964, *DB & DBW* 313; Homestead, 19 Apr 1964, *RKG* 63361; HIGHLANDS: Lake Annie, junction FLA 17 and FLA 70, 18 Nov 1964, *DB & DBW* 528 (NY); MONROE: Flamingo, Everglades National Park, 17 Apr 1964 *DB & DBW* 288; Plantation Key, 21 Nov 1964, *DB & DBW* 563; Cudjoe Key, 30 Dec 1964, *G. Avery s.n.*; POLK: Babson Park, 27 Nov 1964, *DB* 580; ST. LUCIE: Nigger Jim Scrub, 26 Oct 1957, *L. Brass* 29046.

Chamaesyce thymifolia has only been found in three counties to date, all on the west coast of Florida and in each case close to salt or brackish water. The collections were all made in 1963 or 1964, but the colonies were thriving and appeared from their extent to have been in the area for some time.

C. thymifolia: CHARLOTTE COUNTY: Charlotte Harbor, 27 Sept 1964, *DB* 417 (BM, GH, NY, US); LEE: Fort Myers, 13 Aug 1963, *DB* 186a; Fort Myers, 27 Sept 1964, *DB* 413 (BM, F, FSU, GH, NY, US); Fort Myers, 27 Sept 1964, *DB* 414; PINELLAS: Dunedin, 15 Oct 1964, *DB* 451.

Specimens representing the above collections are on deposit in the herbarium of the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Florida, Gainesville, and duplicates are being distributed to the institutions indicated.

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